

On page 10 replace the entire paragraph beginning at line 4 with the following:

Q -- In all embodiments of the present invention, the owner of an address in the directory would have a unique identifier, e.g., a username, and a password. The address owner would use his or her username and password to access the directory to, for example, create an address, change an address, specify the date(s) on which an address will be effective, and/or change the effective date(s). A typical first page 100 of the address directory is shown in Fig. 1B. This first page contains a set of options 101 wherein an address owner can login by entering his or her username 103 and password 104. The set of options 101 also provides an option 105 to permit a new user to register with the directory. The first page of the directory also contains a set of options 102 to permit a visitor to the directory to access an address in the directory by entering a customer ID 106 and a delivery date 107. The set of options 102 also provides an option to enter a password 108 in accordance with the restricted and anonymous embodiments of the present invention.

If an address owner selects option 105 to register with the directory, the address owner is directed to a page 200 as shown in Fig. 2. This page 200 provides a space for the address owner to enter a name 201, an address 202, e-mail address 203, and optionally enter a telephone number 204 and a fax number 205. The page 200 also provides a space for the address owner to enter a start date 206 and an ending date 207 for the address. If no ending effective date is given, the address is deemed to be "permanent." The address owner also is directed to select a username 208 and a password 209 for use in accessing the directory entry in the future, and to select a customer ID 210 for use by merchants and shippers to get the address. The address

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COV owner also is provided an option 211 to set up an alternate address in the directory, for example, a business address, with its own beginning and ending effective dates, e-mail address, and optional telephone and/or facsimile numbers.--

AB On page 11, replace the entire paragraph beginning at line 11 with the following:

-- If the address owner selects option 306, and wishes to grant access to selected persons at the time the address entry is being established, the address owner is directed to a page 401 as shown in Fig. 4A. As shown in Fig. 4A, the address owner may select one or more from a list 403 of preselected merchants and a list 404 of preselected shippers who will have access to the address owner's address entry. Alternately (not shown), the address owner may identify those persons who may have access to the address owner's address entry by providing that person's telephone number, e-mail address, or other source identification information that may be used to authenticate the requesting person's identity. The address owner is then directed to a page 402 as shown in Fig. 4B to confirm the "trusted" merchants 405 and shippers 406 who will have access to the address owner's address entry.

Once the address owner has selected the trusted merchants or shippers who will have access to the address entry, the address directory generates a key for each merchant or shipper selected, and electronically sends the key to the merchant or shipper. The merchant can then hold the key until needed, i.e., until the address owner places an order with the merchant, and directs the merchant to obtain the delivery address from the address directory.—

On page 13, replace the entire paragraph beginning at line 13 with the following:

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--If option 503 is selected, the address owner is then directed to a page 502 as shown in Fig. 5B. Page 502 would display the address owner's old address 504 and other information in the address owner's profile, for example, the level of security for the address entry and the identity of persons having permission to view the entry. As shown in Fig. 5B, page 502 also would provide a space for the address owner to enter a new address 505, together with the start date 506 and the ending date 507 for the new address. The address owner is also given an option 508 to make additional changes to the address owner's profile, for example to the level of security, to the identity of persons with access, or to save the changes and exit. If the address owner clicks on the box marked "YES" at this option 508, the address owner is then directed to pages similar to the pages 200, 301, and 302 shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 and can modify any of the entries shown thereon. As with the requirement that the address owner affirmatively choose to modify the address entry, this step ensures that the address owner is satisfied that the changes he or she has made accurately reflect the changes desired.

On page 15, replace the entire paragraph beginning at line 10 with the following:

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-- In a first embodiment of the present invention, the address owner's address entry would be "open," i.e., available to the merchant or shipper without restriction. The manner in which a merchant or a shipper would utilize the address directory to obtain an address owner's address in the open embodiment of the present invention is shown in Fig. 7. In this embodiment of the present invention, the address owner places an order with a merchant, and proceeds to

Doc No.: 415741

checkout at step 702, and selects a shipper at step 703. If, at step 704, the address owner has provided a shipping address, the checkout proceeds to step 705 and the merchandise is shipped to the address provided at step 706. On the other hand, if a shipping address is not provided at step 704, the process proceeds to step 707, wherein a pointer to the address directory is provided, either by selecting the directory from a list of preselected directories or by providing the URL of the directory at step 604 as discussed above. The address owner then at step 708 provides the customer ID to be used in accessing the address owner's address in the directory. At step 709, the merchant sends an electronic message to a data processor in the address directory, identifying the merchant and the selected shipper, and requesting a key to access the address owner's directory entry. The data processor then checks at step 710 to see whether the address entry is restricted. If the answer at this step 710 is yes, the address directory proceeds to step 711 and processes the request from the merchant in accordance with the procedures for a restricted entry discussed in more detail below. If the answer at this step 710 is no, that is, the address entry is not restricted, the address directory data processor sends a return message to the merchant at step 712 indicating that no access key is necessary. The merchant would then proceed to access the address directory at step 713, enter the address owner's customer ID into a query in the address directory at step 714, enter the delivery date into a query in the address directory at step 715, and obtain the address owner's address in response to the query at step 716. In this manner, the merchant or shipper would obtain an up-to-date address for shipping the goods ordered from the merchant.--

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On page 17, replace the entire paragraph beginning at line 1 with the following:

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-- If, at step 810, the address directory determines that the address entry is restricted, the address directory next proceeds to step 812 to verify the identity of the merchant. This can be done in any number of conventional ways, including the use of online certificates of authenticity, for example, those provided by VeriSign or other authentication services. If the answer at step 813, is no, that is, the merchant's identity is not verified, the address directory sends a return message to the merchant indicating that the request for access to the address entry cannot be processed. This prevents the address entry from being accessed by an imposter or otherwise illegitimate entities. If the answer at step 813 is yes, that is, the merchant's identity is verified, the address directory proceeds to step 815 and checks to see whether the merchant has previously been provided a key as a result of having been preselected by the address owner to receive such a key at the time the address entry was established as discussed in more detail above with respect to Figs. 3A, 3B, 4A, and 4B.--

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On page 19, replace the entire paragraph beginning at line 2 with the following:

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-- In a first version of the anonymous embodiment of the present invention, shown in Figs. 10A-10C, the address owner checks out during an online transaction and the merchant requests an access key in the same manner as for the restricted embodiment shown in Fig. 8A, with steps 1001-1009 corresponding to steps 801-809 discussed in more detail above. At step 1010, the address directory checks to see whether the address entry is restricted. If the answer at step 1010 is no, i.e., the address entry is not restricted, the process proceeds to step 1011 and the
Doc No.: 415741

request for the address entry is processed as for unrestricted access described in more detail above with respect to Fig. 7. If the answer at step 1010 is yes, i.e., the address entry is restricted, the directory next checks at step 1012 to see whether the address entry is anonymous. If the answer at this step 1012 is no, i.e., the address entry is merely restricted but not anonymous, the process proceeds to step 1013 and the request for access is processed in accordance with the steps set forth in Figs. 8A-8B and 9A-9B discussed above.--

On page 20, replace the entire paragraph beginning at line 15 with the following:

-- If the answer at step 1012, is yes, i.e. the address owner has chosen to make the address entry anonymous, the address directory then proceeds to steps 1014 and 1015 to verify the identity of the merchant requesting a key to the address entry. If the answer at step 1015 is no, i.e., the merchant's identity is not verified, the address directory sends a return message to the merchant at step 1016 indicating that the request for access to the address entry cannot be processed. If the answer at step 1015 is yes, i.e., the merchant's identity is verified, the address directory next checks at step 1017 to see whether the merchant has an existing key. If the answer at this step 1017 is no, the address directory sends a return message to the merchant providing an access key. If the answer at step 1017 is yes, i.e., the merchant already has a key because it was preselected by the address owner at the time the address entry was established, the address directory next checks at step 1019 to see whether the merchant's existing key is valid. If the answer at step 1019 is no, a return message is sent at step 1020 providing the merchant with an access key. If the answer at step 1019 is yes, a return message is sent at step 1021 instructing